CHALLENGE

THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

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MAY DAY 2024

Why I joined PLP, and you should too!

The following text is the Why I joined speech delivered by a young PL'er at our May Day march in Broooklyn:

Over the last year, capitalism has murdered:

1,300 workers in the U.S. by cops

10,000 farmers in Pakistan

35,000 workers in Gaza

1 million workers in the Congo, and COUNTING

Now more than ever we need to unite, fight back, and join the Progressive Labor Party (PLP).

My family is from Eritrea in the Horn of Africa. Many of them were freedom fighters in the struggle for national liberation.

I have family members who have died and became martyrs to the struggle, who were imprisoned, and who've had to flee their homeland in search of refuge. Although the Eritrean independence movement was confined to its national borders, growing up, I admired the feat of a people smaller than the size of New York City fighting an entire country backed by Western and Soviet imperialists!

No it was not easy, many lives were lost and workers sacrificed everything…my grandparents were threatened, tortured, and had their house burnt down all because they held down the line for their country and did not

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SCAN ME

OUR FIGHT

Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

The dictatorship of the working class — communism—can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society's benefits and burdens.

Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women— sexism—and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

CONTACT US

Email: desafio.challenge@gmail.com
Mail: Box 808 GPO, Brooklyn, NY 11202
Internet: Online: www.plp.org
Twitter: @PLPchallenge
Facebook: @Challenge Desafio
Instagram: @ PLPchallenge

@PLPCHALLENGE

WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

CHALLENGE is for the working class, produced by the working class. The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual.
While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

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Editorial

Death to fascism, power to the working class!

The genocide in Gaza is bringing two conflicting world trends to the forefront: the surge of fascist depravity and the rising movement for an egalitarian world. Inspired by the courageous resistance of the working class in Palestine to the Israeli rulers' barbaric ethnic cleansing, young people around the world have responded with mass campus protests. As they witness the carpet bombing of civilians and the "full-blown famine" in northern Gaza (npr.org, 5/4), they are recoiling in horror from the capitalist bosses' business as usual. Most important, they are fighting back.

Over the last two weeks, more than 2,500 college students have been arrested across the U.S. (New York Times, 5/7). In solidarity with the millions of displaced workers and children in Gaza, the student encampment movement has spread to Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East. At the same time, the forces of rising fascism have viciously attacked the students. Given the choice of supporting peaceful protests or the mass murder of innocents, the capitalists' mouthpieces and front people have made their position clear. From the mainstream media and liberals in the White House and Congress to Donald Trump's MAGA zealots, the rulers' stooges have come down squarely on the side of the U.S.-funded genocide. They have decided that protest must be crushed, that dissent will not be tolerated—a brutally clear message in a time of worldwide capitalist crisis. As inter-imperialist rivalry sharpens and the next world war approaches, the bosses are compelled to do all they can to try to pacify and intimidate the international working class.

But the bosses will not have the ultimate say. The fightback of workers in Gaza, and the unity of millions around the world to defend them, shows that our class can and must take our future into our own hands—by putting the bloodthirsty capitalists out of business with communist revolution.

How the bosses lie about violence

From Genocide Joe Biden's press secretary to House Speaker Mike Johnson to New York City Mayor Eric Adams, the bosses' stooges have hyped a bogus narrative about "violent" protests and "rampant" anti-Jewish racism on the campuses. Strategically, Progressive Labor Party supports mass revolutionary violence to smash the violent capitalist state and put an end to the daily violence of the profit system. We also support the right of student protesters to defend themselves with force, as they did at UCLA, against the violence of the kkkops or gangs of pro-Zionist thugs. It's good training for the bigger fights to come.

In reality, though, the campus protests have been overwhelmingly nonviolent--akin to the sit-ins of the U.S. civil rights era, which were also met with violence from both the Ku Klux Klan and the Klan in blue. As college presidents have sicced the police on students for the crime of pitching tents on lawns, the cops have predictably resorted to chemical warfare and potentially lethal rubber bullets (Newsweek, 5/2). At UCLA, videos showed dozens of pro-Zionists "attacking students… beating them with sticks, using chemical sprays and launching fireworks as weapons….[V]iolence ebbed and flowed for nearly five hours, mostly with little or no police intervention" (NYT, 5/2). Three days later, none of the thugs had been arrested for the assault.

The bosses won't hesitate to use violence against rebellious workers because they know they can't survive without it. As a system defined by the theft of value from the many by the few, capitalism is built upon force and coercion. It is violent by its nature. As the bosses' liberal democracy proves increasingly less able to keep their system afloat, they are moving steadily toward fascism. The liberal ruling class of finance capital, the main-wing bosses who back Biden and fund the Ivy League universities, are wantonly heaving out the so-called anchors of democracy, the phony freedoms of assembly, speech, and the press. At Columbia University, the citadel of liberal journalism, the cops rounded up student reporters and locked them inside a building to stop them from observing the scene of the police attacks (New York Magazine, 5/1). At UCLA, the coordination among university officials, cops, and fascist thugs represents a new development in the U.S. in this period, one reminiscent of Nazi Germany.

The false narrative of anti-Jewish racism

Doubtless some despicable anti-Jewish sentiments have been voiced on or near campuses over the last several weeks. But for all the outraged hand-wringing in Congress and by the rat-fink college presidents, we have yet to see a single account of a Jewish student physically harmed because they were Jewish. (On the other hand, many Jewish protestors have been injured by cops and campus security because they were anti-genocide.) And we've certainly seen nothing to compare to the racist shootings of three Palestinian college students last November in Vermont (AP News, 11/30/23).

Egged on by Biden, against virtually all of the evidence on the ground, the bosses' media and the pro-genocide Zionist pressure groups keep cynically conflating the students' anti-Zionism with antisemitism. In fact, these are two completely different things. Anti-Jewish racism—like anti-Arab racism and anti-Muslim racism—divides workers and hurts the entire working class. Anti-Zionism—like all attacks on nationalism--helps the working class, including Jewish workers and students. The mid-2oth-century Zionists were a group of Jewish bosses who cut a deal with the British imperialists to create a "Jewish state" where they could exploit Jewish labor and super-exploit Arab labor. The birth of the settler colonialist state of Israel in 1948 expelled 700,000 Arab workers from their homes, a foreshadowing of the flight and displacement of nearly two million Palestinians in Gaza (Aljazeera, 4/23). The very concept of a Jewish state led to the racist apartheid we see today in Israel, Gaza, and the West Bank. Like all states, the state of Israel must be smashed by communist revolution.

The working class responds with international solidarity

The heroism and perseverance of workers in Palestine is moving workers and students around the world to rally to the defense of our class. Mass anti-genocide demonstrations have erupted across Europe, in Australia, in Mexico City, and—despite government crackdowns—in the Middle East. Fifteen hundred people have been arrested in Jordan alone (NYT, 4/29). In Paris, students at the elite Sciences Po—the alma mater of President Emmanuel Macron—occupied buildings, were battered by police, and forced the closure of the main campus (Barrons.com, 5/2). In Spain, Britain, Germany, and Australia, thousands of students have established anti-genocide encampments, demanding that their universities divest from any ties to Israel's war machine (NYT, 5/3). In some cases, as in the U.S., these protests have been joined by anti-genocide workers—the "outside agitators" called out by compulsive liar Eric Adams. In the spirit of the Freedom Riders who organized against racist segregation in the U.S. in the 1960s, our Party calls for more agitation, from inside and out, to stop the mass murder in Gaza. All workers' struggles belong to the whole working class. When workers and students unite in multiracial unity to fight back against state violence, they become a powerful force. Join PLP to smash capitalist terror and stop the bosses' genocides for all time!

UCLA protests

The kkkops, the kkkourts, and fascist scum all part of the bosses' plan

LOS ANGELES, CA, May 2- This morning, a contingent of fascist Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and California Highway Patrol (CHP) KKKops, attacking with rubber bullets and stun grenades, evicted students and supporters from an encampment against genocide in Palestine at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA). They arrested over 200 students, professors and supporters of the encampment. The night before, the liberal fascist UCLA administration, the LAPD and CHP sat back and did nothing but watch while 50 masked Zionist thugs attacked the encampment with lead pipes, fireworks, and chemical sprays, sending over 20 student encampers to the hospital. Meanwhile, a chorus of politicians, media outlets and pundits, including President Joe Biden and House Leader Mike Johnson, have demanded a nationwide crackdown on all campus, anti-genocide encampments.

But this attempt to crush what is a growing anti-genocide, anti-war movement on campuses is backfiring. While this gaggle of liberal and conservative politicians and media endlessly blab about the rights of university students to get their education unimpeded by "disruption", and make phony and disgusting charges of "antisemitism" against the encampers, students around the country are getting an on-the-ground education about the role of the state and educational institutions under a capitalist system.

Student's boldness exposes bosses' lies about education

Far from the havens for free speech, academic discourse and scholarly investigation, as touted by college and university bigwigs, the nationwide attacks on student-led campus encampments expose the truth: whatever form capitalism takes, it is in essence a class dictatorship. Educational institutions under

capitalism must serve the needs of the ruling class. Israel has played the role of attack dog, ensuring U.S. bosses' control of crucial Mideast oil. Any popular threat to U.S. financial and political support for Israel will therefore not be tolerated. A widespread challenge to that foreign policy like the encampments, even though peaceful, must be shut down violently by cops or the military.

Progressive Labor Party (PLP) members consistently visited the encampment for the week that it remained up and running. We were impressed by the level of organization and collectivity in the encampment, as well as the dedication and commitment of the students who participated. Before we entered the camp, one of the students explained rules designed to protect the encampment from the Zionists, and informed us that the good of the collective encampment was primary. Everything needed by the students, from food to medical supplies to the materials necessary to make signs, was donated and shared. Organized security cordoned off any Zionist agitators who entered the camp and "escorted" them out.

Many UCLA faculty and staff actively supported the encampment. Two close friends of PLP were involved, one an undergrad student and the other a doctor and professor at the UCLA Med School, widely known and respected on campus, who has facilitated the involvement of PLP there. When it became clear that the cops were going to attack the encampment on the evening of May 2, health workers, professors and others supported the students in many different ways, from preparing on the scene medical teams, including med students, to opening up buildings for students who needed to get away from the KKKops.

Reject nationalism, fight for communism

The fascist attacks on these brave anti-genocide students at UCLA and nationwide became one of the key points brought out in our May Day program, which was co-emceed by the UCLA undergrad. Participants loudly applauded the fighting spirit of the encampments. PLP is growing on college campuses in both Northern and Southern California, and we are encouraging young comrades to join mass organizations and give communist leadership to the mass anti-war, anti-genocide movement.

The main weakness of the encampments is an allegiance to the idea that the problems of Palestinian workers could be solved if they had their "own" state. This nationalist outlook, which advocates substituting a different group of exploiters for the Israeli Zionist bosses who maintain apartheid in Palestine now, will only maintain an exploitative capitalist system and lead to more oppression and death for the working class. Only communist revolution, led by PLP, can bring the long suffering of workers in Palestine to an end and build a bright future for all of our class worldwide!

Hood College

Anti-genocide protests expose liberal admin's racism

FREDERICK, MD— At Hood College, at least 50 students gathered at the campus's chapel for a rally and march in solidarity with workers and families suffering from the U.S.-backed genocide in Gaza. This is the second student-led rally on campus this academic year—the first being on November 9th. Inspired by their experience at the first national solidarity rally in Washington, DC on November 4th, multiple students and leaders of student organizations coordinated in just five days the first student-led mass protest since 2018, which was when the administration approved a "No Hate at Hood" walkout.

Unlike the 2018 demonstration, the organizers did not get approval from the college. The rally provided students a way to express their rage at both the college administration and Joe Biden for their continuing support of genocide. The genocide in Gaza—just like in Congo, Myanmar, and Darfur—is part of ongoing attacks on the international working class due to inter-imperialist rivalry. The U.S. is desperate to maintain its imperial status against rival imperialists in China and Russia. As capitalism falls deeper into crisis, the ruling class turns to war and fascism to save their atrocious system.

Students take the lead

November 9th of last year, between 60 and 80 students, professors, and community members walked out from class and work to denounce the Israeli government's ongoing genocide of workers in Gaza. The student-led walkout came as part of a call for a national day of solidarity for workers whose lives have been destroyed by the fascist Zionist Israeli government, as well as the cowardly Hamas leaders. Our comrade worked with classmates to spread the word about this walkout, posting flyers around campus and online.

The fightback continues

One member of Progressive Labor Party and a student at the college helped to spread the word for the February rally and march. They coordinated a fiery music playlist of international and revolutionary music, created politically sharp posters with a classmate, and ensured the safety of the rally as students walked off campus into downtown Frederick. Our comrade, with three friends, distributed dozens of CHALLENGEs and flyers.

In a display of classic Hood College hypocrisy, campus safety officials stopped short of the campus entrance. This left students at the mercy of potential racist attacks and local police officers who followed the march both in uniform and in unmarked cars to try and intimidate the march.

Students led rallying cries against President Andrea Chapdelaine, Genocide Joe Biden, and blood-soaked Benjamin Netanyahu. We chanted demands for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza. This ruffled the feathers of the thinly veiled racists from both Hood College and Frederick.

Like the first rally, the energy was electrifying. Students' frustration with, and disappointment in Chapdelaine's refusal to acknowledge the genocide, sparked necessary discussions—the same discussions that the administration was all too eager to conduct in 2022 soon after the war in Ukraine began.

Our comrade spoke to the need for solidarity among all students and workers, more than what the pro-Palestine chants called for. Instead of arguing over choosing sides and who is more deserving of compassion, the comrade clearly stated that workers are more than their national borders and ethnic backgrounds. Capitalism needs racism and nationalism to keep workers divided and justify their imperialist wars and genocides.

Administration's racism exposed

Since Hamas's attack on workers in Israel and the government's monstrous response, there have only been passive emails from Chapdelaine calling for peace, and a history lecture on Israel and Palestine since the early 20th century. Hood College, like many liberal arts campuses, regularly advertises itself as an inclusive, diverse community that celebrates open discourse and varied perspectives. Students and faculty who have been here for years know this is a bald-faced lie. Within two weeks of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the administration held a pro-Ukraine campus rally and a panel discussion referring to the "Crisis in Europe." All of this and more were recalled by speakers during the November walkout, joined with cries of "Shame!" toward the administration and those who denied the deadly reality of the workers in Palestine.

The second rally shows that not only are students still fed up with Chapdelaine and her attempts at "keeping the peace," but that they are ready for stronger action that challenges the campus and bursts its picture-perfect bubble of a small, liberal arts college. In the weeks since the rally, students have been continuing conversations that the college refuses to facilitate. With this being our comrade's final semester, much of the work will continue to focus on channeling the righteous student anger into organizing and planting the seeds for even more militant actions. There is great potential among students here and as communists, we must continue to bring revolutionary, internationalist politics to the struggle.

MAY DAY 2024

Chicago: 'No War but Class War'

CHICAGO, May 4 —"Whose day? Our day! What day? MAY DAY!!" An audience of over sixty multiracial, multigenerational workers and youth filled a local fieldhouse this afternoon to celebrate our annual May Day dinner and program. The abundant enthusiasm and energy from organizers and participants alike served as a reminder that the collective spirit of the international working class will never be extinguished.

The theme for our program this year was "No War but Class War." Conflicts for the capitalist bosses' profits are threatening to engulf practically the whole planet in blood and fire. Meanwhile, these same bosses want us to choose a side based on anti-worker identities like nationality or religion, to shoot and kill our working-class siblings around the world. We say, "Hell no!" As communists we want to transform imperialist war into international class war that overthrows the racist bosses and sets up a communist society where workers run things.

This communist world is being actualized by students who have set up encampments across the country against the genocide in Gaza. Progressive Labor Party (PLP) members went to the encampment at University of Chicago the evening before to show our support and appreciation for the students' revolutionary actions and courage. Students gladly took CHALLENGE and were extremely open to our communist politics.

This revolutionary optimism weaved through our program, speeches, and even our decorations today. We will no doubt carry this energy back with us to the streets, our workplaces and campuses as we continue to build Progressive Labor Party and a mass communist movement to take state power.

Get with the revolutionary program

After gathering and dining on some delicious food, the May Day program officially kicked off with an interactive discussion in which each table brainstormed a list of songs that contained themes of work and class struggle. Using a different picture of working-class art at the center of each table, we then decided which song from our list best matched the image. Each table also turned in their list to compile a revolutionary music playlist to use for future events and actions.

We then heard our keynote speech, delivered by a veteran health care worker comrade. This comrade skillfully connected her experiences organizing at her job, her children's school, and mass organization to the need to be in a Party which connects all the struggles together. She pulled no punches in calling for the need to transform the current fightback into openly revolutionary struggle:

"We know that the only good war is the war against the ruling class. This is why we say, 'No war but class war.' A class war is when the working class, led by communists, fights the ruling class to take state power (this means to overthrow the government and win over the military) and use these resources to redistribute wealth and build a society for equality of all workers.

In practical terms, this means finding the antiracist fightback in your community, school, and job and joining in with the political outlook of multiracial unity and a class analysis of the problem you are fighting against. It means talking to workers and soldiers about overthrowing capitalism with communist revolution. It is up to us to organize, build relationships with each other and other workers and students, and fight back in every way that we can so that we can build class consciousness and an antiracist, anti-fascist, working class movement. Just like it took a civil war to destroy the institution of slavery, it will take another revolutionary war to rid us of capitalism."

Next up was our take on a popular game show, where instead of wanting to be a millionaire we asked, "Who Wants to Be a Revolutionary?" A comrade quizzed the audience on historical questions relating to past revolutions and civil wars.

Two health care workers newer to the Party as well as a high school senior then shared recent experiences also organizing on their jobs and within their mass organizations against Israel's genocidal slaughter against workers and children in Palestine. Similar to the keynote speech, they described how being a part of a fighting Party like PLP helped them to push the struggle further.

We rounded things out with a sharp anti-nationalist poem by a retired teacher comrade followed by a blistering internationalist speech by a comrade actively building a base with migrant workers around the city. And of course, we ended with singing the communist anthem the Internationale with raised fists!

Communist culture sustains us on May Day and beyond

Building revolutionary culture and community on May Day is essential to sustaining our movement as we gear up for the summer and sharper class struggle ahead. We plan to carry this communist culture and the Party's politics to the ongoing Gaza solidarity encampments in the city and win more fighters to the lifetime commitment of revolution!

Cambridge: 'power to the working class'

Our spirited May Day march through Cambridge ended at the locked Harvard Yard gate with acclaim from the anti-genocide in Gaza encampment inside Harvard.

Along the march, our militant chants were "Arab, Jewish, Black, and White or Asian, Latin, Black and White, Workers of the World Unite", "Joe Biden you can't hide, we charge you with genocide," "Smash racist deportations, working people have no nation." Many passersby took our leaflets and quite a few thanked us for our action. One person joined the march and wanted to work with our party.

After the Boston and State Cops destroyed the Northeastern University encampment early this morning, arresting over 100 protesters, a Northeastern student gave a stirring speech at our picket line through the Harvard gate, cheered by the Harvard anti-genocide protesters.

The student said "They can arrest the protesters but they can't stop the movement...We students of Northeastern stand in solidarity with the students of Harvard ... denounce the genocide ...We support the brave Northeastern staff who will almost certainly be fired for protesting,...We cannot rely on the police or the government to keep us safe! We keep us safe! Northeastern is more concerned with their ties to Raytheon and other companies complicit in genocide than with their students...power to the working class ..."

Another speaker remembered the first anti-Vietnam War demonstration in the U.S., by the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) in 1962, about the same size as our rally today. At that demo, a speaker said, "The Vietnam War marks the beginning of the end of U.S. imperialism." It led to the Worker-Student alliance and the spread of militant action against imperialist war. Only a few years later, the anti-Vietnam War movement spread to millions upon millions, from campuses to workplaces to the U.S. military itself, with rebellions by U.S. soldiers against the war. This anti-genocide movement will also spread. It's critical that the anti-nationalism, anti-capitalism and antiracism line of PLP be put in the lead of these protests.

Some of the marchers overcame fear and demonstrated in public for the first time in their lives! A member of the Boston Teachers Union (BTU), who is also a Harvard student, warmly greeted a fellow BTU member at our picket line.

We passed out bunches of leaflets and CHALLENGE newspapers through the locked Harvard gate to the demonstrators inside as we chanted along with them, fists in the air, "Disclose, Divest, We will not stop, We will not rest."

Soon after the march, one of the marchers joined our Party. We want to make that one new member the next step as we grow into thousands and millions, to tear down worldwide capitalism and build a communist world!

MAY DAY 2024

Los Angeles: celebration rooted in fightback

LOS ANGELES- A multi-racial, multi-generational group of more than 80 workers and students came together to celebrate May Day with Progressive Labor Party (PLP). We hosted our 5th straight celebratory dinner at a local park in South Central Los Angeles in the neighborhood where Alex Flores was murdered by KKKops. The Flores fightback is still going strong and they continue to celebrate May Day with the PLP. The event was led and emceed by new, young members, who brought the energy of the fightbacks on their college campus to our event making it especially vibrant and engaging.

The festivities opened with a performance from a local Aztec Danzante troupe who has consistently supported the family of Alex Flores and their fight against racist, police terror. This was followed by a lively "History of May Day" skit written by a college student and acted out by high school and college students. There was a moving speech from a veteran comrade on their 50th May Day and a symbolic "passing of the torch" to a new comrade who talked about why they joined PLP. The last was by a comrade and teacher who delivered an inspiring speech about the "power of yet" describing where we and our class is in this moment and our heroic potential as communist organizers. Interspersed were songs and poetry and a popular "speed dating" segment that got everyone up and meeting new people. It was an all around inspiring May Day with more in depth articles and letters to come. Happy May Day!

Washington, DC: Step forward, spirited celebration

The Progressive Labor Party (PLP) May Day in the Washington, D.C. area was an amazing celebration of past and current fights against capitalism. It was also a great step forward for our younger leadership which worked collectively to make the event a success. Encouraged by the Party leadership to create our own May Day event rather than joining the New York City march, we stepped up and hosted our own celebration. The level of participation and energy proved our decision to be the right one. A multiracial group of over 50 comrades and interested workers attended the family-friendly dinner. The May Day planning committee decorated the house with red "Fight for Communism" flags, and posters of past CHALLENGE articles and older Party documents. Red balloons and tablecloths completed the festive scene. Throughout the afternoon we ran a continuous video on the TV of past PLP May Day marches and interviews. Veteran comrades shared in childcare duties so all attendees could participate in political discussion while the children played with play-doh and each other.

After enjoying delicious Peruvian food, we gathered comrades for the program. This was the first time speaking for several of the presenters. We heard about struggles against police brutality, and why nationalism is a danger to the working class. We heard about teachers in Maryland being attacked as antisemitic for calling for an end to Israeli military attacks in Palestine. We heard about why we need a militant Party to build for revolution. We heard an original poem from a new teacher comrade. We engaged the audience by asking trivia questions and giving out political buttons and hand soap to winners. The atmosphere was warm and comradely, and singing the Internationale in English and Spanish was a wonderful way to end the program.

Afterwards, people continued to mingle and engage in energetic discussion. One young worker from Turkey who met the Party at an encampment said he did not realize anything like the Party existed in the U.S. and he was excited to learn more. A Metro worker's son who is in college at George Washington University took a lot of Party literature and was excited to visit the encampment with Party members. Everyone who attended seemed inspired and enthusiastic. We look forward to celebrating May Day again next year!

Nazareth, Israel: Arab, Jewish workers unite!

Thousands of workers, students, and youth – marched through the central city to commemorate May Day. This march was organized several days earlier from the actual May Day, set on Saturday (the local day of rest) to permit as many people as possible to come from all across the country. Both Arab and Jewish workers and youth marched together, in defiance of the government's nationalistic propaganda.

Earlier that day, the police raided the (official) Communist Party's offices in Nazareth, confiscating banners and trying to bully the Party members to prevent or weaken the march. Such scare tactics by the cops did not work, and the march went forth with red flags and red banners calling for a united struggle against the regime and its fascist ideology.

Faced with increasing repression in recent months, the (official) Communist Party is forced to move leftward from its old revisionist positions, and the slogans were much more militant than in the preceding year.

Above Photo: The left banner says in Hebrew: "Workers of All Countries Unite Against Imperialism"; the middle banner says: "Long Live Mayday – International Workers' Day"; and the right banner sats: "Long Live Marxism Leninism".

International May Day Greetings

Brazil: we have a world to win

PL'ers and friends in Brazil waving the red flag our red flag symbolizing communist internationalism

Long live the communist struggle, long live the PLP.

Greetings to Progressive Labor Party on the occasion of May Day 2024 from Progressive Labor Party members and friends in Brazil.

The reactionary policies of fascists and capitalists only generate wars which in turn destroy man and his environment, as Marx had already said. Today the wars against the working class and the proletarians of all countries make us see that the fight against capitalism and fascism must be the element that guides the daily life of the working class.

During the last century imperialism and fascism were responsible for two world wars in which tens of millions of workers perished. Even today, wars continue to destroy our class and the environment through the threat of increasingly sophisticated nuclear weapons. Only the union of workers, proletarians, of the entire working class to turn the guns against capitalism can give a better future to our world. Active and unemployed workers and students, **ALL UNITED AGAINST CAPITALISM AND FASCISM.**

BUILD THE INTERNATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST PLP! WE HAVE A WORLD TO WIN!!

Haiti: ever onward to victory, we shall win

Revolutionary greetings from Progressive Labor Party in Haiti on the occasion of May Day 2024

Comrades,

Every first of May, the lion tries to wake so it can roar, but its voice is still stifled. However, not for long will the chains of the executioners rest so firm and strong, to keep the lion mute any longer. Soon, the roar will be heard in the four corners of the earth. We can hear it, if we ignore the diversions of the executioners.

Comrades, we send you our revolutionary greetings from Haiti. Our greetings are full of hope in the unleashing of the working class, this lion that can never be slain.

From Haiti to Palestine, passing through all the countries where executioners torture and murder to try to silence dissident voices, we will never stop chanting: "Hasta la victoria siempre", venceremos—ever onward to victory, we shall win".

Long live the communist struggle, long live the PLP.

Israel-Palestine: march against fascism

Comrades,

I send you revolutionary greetings from Israel-Palestine, at the forefront of the struggle against fascism. Here, the bosses' dogfight over state power and profits led to the rise of an openly fascist government. This administration makes no liberal pretense and viciously attacks the working class, especially women, LGBT, Palestinians, and asylum seekers.

The old, liberal wing of the ruling class opposes this, fearing that the end of the liberal charade will destabilize the regime and endanger their ties with the international business class, which also prefers to wear the liberal mask.

Meanwhile, the newer, less well-established wing of Israel's bourgeoisie welcomes the new regime, hoping that it will rob the older part of the ruling class and distribute the spoils among the newer wing.

This led to mass protests of hundreds of thousands of people, mostly staunchly nationalist (Zionist) in character. We, as communists, participate in the Block against the Occupation, reminding the "patriotic" protesters of "The Elephant in the Room" they would otherwise gladly ignore, namely colonialism.

This May Day, we participate in marches in Nazareth and Jaffa against the regime, against fascism, and for one communist state from all the rivers to the seas, with equality and freedom for all working-class people. March on May Day - smash capitalism and fascism!

The banner says in Hebrew: "Workers of All Countries Unite Against Imperialism"

Tanzania: we need solidarity vs. the flood by capitalist disregard

The corrupt and visionless leaders in a region in northeast Tanzania sold plots to people to build houses within a basin, which has been known to be prone to flooding since the colonial era. Due to the population expansion and the rise of high demand of urban land, the human settlements in the area expanded rapidly from 2010. In addition, the impacts of climate change brought heavy rainfall since November 2023 bringing daily flooding. The government turned a blind eye even though its citizens were suffering from the loss of homes, clothes, food, fresh and clean water, electricity, and roads.

In the last few weeks, the flooding intensified and over 3,000 people lost their homes. The most affected are women, older people, both primary and secondary students, poor people, disabled people, and some Progressive Labor Party (PLP) comrades who lived there. Over 79 houses were totally demolished by the water that turned the basin into a temporary lake. None of these people were given food or any other social services by the government; however, a local government official donated 200 bags of maize to 1,067 people, less than half of those affected. More flooding is expected in the coming weeks. Worse impacts may include eruption of waterborne diseases such as cholera due to improper dumping of sewage and destroyed toilets. The situation is likely to pose social miseries to the entire town. The PLP members from other areas have visited this area and are organizing the donation of clothes and food. We ask comrades from other countries around the world to join hands with us in international solidarity with money for food, clothes, and rent, etc.

Let us fight injustice, inequality, and capitalist exploitation of our working-class brothers and sisters. Communist revolution will be the turning point of getting rid of all the burdens of the capitalist system. "Let us shout as an international working class". When we stand together, fight together, we win together and enjoy a happy life as one global working class.

You can't smash the bosses without passing the hat!

The Progressive Labor Party unites the working class to learn to fight and fight to learn. This year's project is organized around connecting the struggles against police terror. Our goal is to raise our confidence that we are one world, one working class and capable of building a party to fight for communism! To donate, scan the qr code or go to www.plp.org and click, "donate." Follow us on social media! @plpchallenge

Fightback vs. Zionist censorship in school ‘no one is alone in the struggle’

The following speech was given by a NYC public school school teacher at our May Day march in Brooklyn, NY.

I am a New York City public school teacher who teaches history. In November, I openly supported students who wrote a letter to demand the school administration take a stance against antisemitism and anti-Muslim racism, and that the school create a space to mourn the death of Palestinian workers.

In response to my advocacy for students, two days later in the middle of my class, an assistant principal told me to dismiss early, that I was under investigation and removed from the classroom, that I wouldn’t get union representation, and that I had to turn in my keys and was now barred from all contact with students and parents.

For 100 days after, I was placed in a reassignment center called the “rubberroom” without ever being charged. I was not given a chance to defend myself, I was kept in total isolation. Isolation is a strategy of the bosses to force people to stay quiet and disconnected from fellow teachers and the school community at large.

In fact, they call the reassignment center the rubber room because the rubber room is where you place people who are “crazy” and because it is meant to break people’s spirits. For four months, I sat in a windowless room with flickering fluorescent lights.

Instead of solid walls, 10 rubber-roomed teachers sat silently for eight hours a day surrounded by glass walls so that we could be monitored and disciplined by supervisory staff. I lost track of time in that room and was constantly reminded of how I should internalize the bosses punishment, that I should internalize in isolation some sort of guilt.

By disappearing me from school, it sent the message to other teachers and students that speaking out against genocide meant reprisals. That you all have to fall in line or even cheer for U.S. bombs being dropped on Gaza or else you will lose your job, not get into college, be expelled from your community.

I confess, I often broke down—the whole situation felt overwhelming. I had to constantly remind myself of my commitment to a better, more egalitarian world, and my love for students to keep myself sane. Ultimately, it was the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) that helped me and my entire school community fight against silencing and isolation. They helped give us the support to overcome cynicism and turn it around into a fight with the capitalist school system.

With the support of PLP, we were able to fight back and combat my own cynicism and feelings of despair. They organized and constantly reminded me that I was not alone and that we can and need to win.I was connected with teachers who faced similar circumstances from the Bay Area, Maryland, and Michigan. In addition, the Party mobilized a defense committee of teachers, parents, and students who were brought around communist ideas of class struggle.

Days after I was removed, over 100 students with their parents' support, immediately sent letters of protest to the school administration, superintendent, and school chancellors. Parents called the school and agitated against the administration in person during school.

A comrade also organized my local school union chapter into a class struggle chapter. Teachers came to the largest union meeting ever at school and sent a signal to administration that teachers would not be silenced or harassed. Many teachers spoke out about their sexist, racist experiences with the bosses. Now long-term committees are being organized and a newsletter is being written to maintain the struggle and broaden it out to support more workers at school.

Because of the power of this collective fightback, I was finally returned to the classroom! That no one is alone in the struggle and that we are stronger together in a Party was a key lesson that I learned! If you haven’t joined the Party and are a member of the club, you should because it will sustain you and one day empower you to stand with oppressed and exploited people. We need to build a base that can mobilize to defend people under attack.

I saw the power of an alliance of students, parents, and educators who are politicized, energized, and organized. It took the entire school community to win! This victory is to be celebrated. However, winning this reform is not nearly enough. Without a revolutionary party to fight for a communist horizon, it is too easy to forget the lessons of struggle in this Dark Night. One such lesson from the past that should not be forgotten is the Nazi policy of Gleichschaltung, which saw nearly all German teachers disciplined to enlist in the project of fascism. Joe Biden and his liberal misleaders are preparing the working class for sacrifice, war, and genocide through isolation and silencing—a version of their own Nazi Gleichschaltung. All of this is to indoctrinate young people so that they are willing cogs in the fascist machine.

It is our task as educators, as communists, and as members of a Party to show young people that there is an alternative. That there is another path away from genocide. That people are not alone in the fight for a better world but that people have and will stand against the genocidal capitalist bosses. We must fight for communism which empowers the entire working class across borders from here to cop-city in Atlanta, to Sudan, to Palestine.

RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Israeli fascists continue to starve workers in Palestine

Al Jazeera, 5/4– Northern Gaza is experiencing a “full-blown famine”, the head of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has said, and warned that it is “moving its way south”... Cindy McCain said that her remarks are based on what the WFP has seen and experienced on the ground…“It’s horror. It’s so hard to look at and it’s so hard to hear,” … “What we… continually ask for is a ceasefire and the ability to have unfettered access, to get in safe…”

Israel has threatened to launch its ground invasion of Rafah in the southernmost tip of the enclave, which is home to more than 1.4 million displaced Palestinians who have fled the Israeli military’s relentless bombardment in other parts of the Gaza Strip. Israel has… also repeatedly attacked and killed Palestinian civilians waiting to collect aid…

German kkkops now require protesters to speak only approved languages

Irish Independent, 4/22– Irish protesters were told they are not allowed to speak or sing in Irish at the pro-Palestine protest camp near the Reichstag in Berlin… activists were attending the ‘ciorcal comhrá’ (conversation circle) event as Gaeilgewhen large numbers of police arrived and told them to stop and move on… Police broke up the Irish language event…under rules that only allow English and German, and in some cases Arabic, to be used during protests. German authorities have been increasingly restricting pro-Palestine protests against the government’s support for Israel amid its war in Gaza. Irish is an official language of the EU…

Irish woman Caoimhe McAllister, who was attending the protest…told the Irish Independent there was already a “very heavy police presence” when the group arrived at the camp. She said they were “immediately stopped” from carrying flags and a handmade banner that said “Saoirse don Phalaistín – Bheirlín” (Freedom for Palestine – Berlin) and police wouldn’t let them “display it as it was too political in nature”.

Chinese bosses look to ICBMs to counter U.S. bosses’ power

Foreign Affairs, 5/3– China is rapidly expanding its nuclear arsenal. Under Chinese President Xi Jinping, Beijing is on track to amass 1,000 nuclear warheads by 2030, up from around 200 in 2019, according to Pentagon estimates. This nuclear buildup, combined with China’s broader investments in modernizing its armed forces, has caused deep concern in Washington. In 2023, the Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States insisted that China’s nuclear expansion should prompt U.S. policymakers to “re-evaluate the size and composition of the U.S. nuclear force.” In March, Admiral John Aquilino, the commander of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, warned, “we haven’t faced a threat like this since World War II.”

U.S. bosses preparing for war against Chinese bosses

New York Times, 5/3– During a military exercise with the Philippines…the U.S. Army deployed a new type of covert weapon that is designed to be hidden in plain sight. Called Typhon, it consists of a modified 40-foot shipping container that conceals up to four missiles that rotate upward to fire. It can be loaded with weapons including the Tomahawk — a cruise missile that can hit targets on land and ships at sea more than 1,150 miles away...U.S. military and civilian leaders believed that President Xi Jinping of China planned to follow through on his many pledges to reunite Taiwan with Beijing by diplomatic means, or by force if necessary.

…positioning…missiles to disable Chinese frigates, destroyers and amphibious craft could be enough, U.S. officials came to think, given their belief that Mr. Xi would try to invade only if he believed he would succeed in a relatively bloodless operation before American troops responded…Setting squadrons of Chinese amphibious ships packed with troops ablaze in the Taiwan Strait, Pentagon officials believed, would not only protect the de facto independent island but may also make Mr. Xi’s own grip on power within the Communist Party untenable.

MAY DAY 2024

WE NEED WORKERS' POWER

Continued from page 1

sell out to imperialist forces.

It was the political will and strength of Eritrean workers who struggled to fight for thirty years and WIN!

This is my family's story and it used to primarily inform my ideas, but despite what the bosses' propaganda tells you, I realized the international working class is worth fighting for past nationalism.

Fast forward, I met PLP online, and then on the streets handing out CHALLENGE newspaper.

After meeting the Party in person, I got the chance to meet many members from all over the world. It was from them that I learned that PLP does not just struggle over ideas, but that we are a FIGHTING Party and we have been for decades.

I met comrades who recounted stories of fighting the KKK and engaging in revolutionary class struggle in Colombia, Haiti, and Mexico, I met comrades who lived out the idea of multiracial class unity in action.

These days, I'm a college student going to protests for Palestine where fellow students in over 120 cities across the country facing immense pressure from their institutions, are getting suspended, surveilled on their phones, kicked out of school, harassed, and beaten by cops all because they are pleading to their institution to stop supporting genocide.

When I ask my classmates and friends what they're fighting for, they tend to say:

Free Palestine, Free Congo, Free Sudan, etc.

But struggles for national liberation are not enough!!

We cannot beg our bosses for freedom…

The most important freedom is freedom from exploitation, from capitalism.

We do not ask them; we take it, united as the international working class.

The working class is divided by local bosses and held captive by nationalist ideas; the ruling class does not want us to see that we have more in common with the Pakistani farmer, the Congolese miner, and the migrants on Staten Island than we do with fascist Eric Adams or genocidal Joe Biden.

Our destinies as workers of the world are interconnected. We depend on each other to live and fight another day. The working class makes the WORLD go round, whether that's in building our phones, harvesting our food, teaching our children…it's us, not the bosses.

Now more than ever is when we need multiracial class unity

Now more than ever we need to smash borders

Now more than ever we need to unite under an international communist party

THIS IS WHY I JOINED PLP, AND YOU SHOULD TOO!

WRITE FOR CHALLENGE!

CHALLENGE strives to be the communist paper for and by the international working class. We call on all readers, supporters, and comrades to submit class struggle articles, analytical pieces, original photos and graphics, letters, and political cartoons.

The next deadline is night of Friday, May 17

Send to desafio.challenge@gmail.com. For some guidance and house style rules, please go to www.bit.ly/338ZJow

All submissions are open to collective discussion, struggle, and change. See sidebar on page 2 about fighting for collectivity and against a cult of the individual.

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